

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-17, 20-23 and 25-27 are pending in the above-identified application. Claim 24 is cancelled. Claims 18-19 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 9-10, 12-14 and 25 were objected to for not equating the terms "plurality of different bit rates" with "plurality of different conditions." These claims have been appropriately amended.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 8 has been amended.

Claims 1-10, 12, 14, 16-17, 20-23 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Okita et al. and Kitamura et al. The Examiner indicated claim 27 as being allowable. Claim 1 has been amended to include features similar to the features of claim 27, namely,

... a reproducing unit that extracts recorded **video** signals from a recording medium in which said **video** signals have same contents but are compressed in a plurality of different bit rates ... (Emphasis added).

Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Claims 2-10, 12, 14 depend from claim 4. Accordingly, claim 6 is also allowable over the art of record.

Claim 16, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claim 16 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claim 17 depends from claim 16. Accordingly, claim 17 is also allowable over the art of record.

Claim 20, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claim 20 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Claim 21 depends from claim 20. Accordingly, claim 21 is also allowable over the art of record.

Claim 22, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claim 22 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

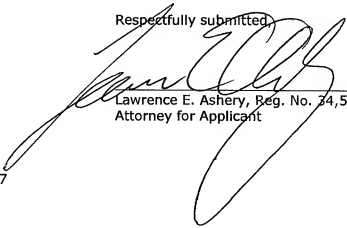
Claim 25, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claim 25 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Claim 26, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claim 26 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claim 23 depends from claim 26. Accordingly, claim 23 is also allowable over the art of record.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Okita et al., Kitamura et al. and Applicants' Admitted Prior Art. As described above, claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Claim 15 depends from claim 1. Thus, claim 15 is also allowable over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this Application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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